

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

September 6, 2001
MAG Saguaro Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jim Book, Chairman	Bruce Dressel, Scottsdale
Alan Sanderson, Mesa	*Ellis Perl, Surprise
Brian Latte, Chandler	Jim Decker, Tempe
Bruce Ward, Gilbert	Pankaj Gupte for Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Dale Thompson, Maricopa County	Scott Nodes, Peoria
Bob Steele, Phoenix	Charles Hydeman, Goodyear
Teri Collins for Bob Ciotti, RPTA	*Mary Kihl, ASU
*Terry Conner, DPS	Alan Hansen, FHWA

OTHERS PRESENT

James Colyar, FHWA	Mike Nevarez, Phoenix Public Transit
Amy Corathers, Scottsdale	Sarath Joshua, MAG
Chris Jordan, Kimley-Horn and Associates	

* Not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Book called meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. Approval of August 1, 2001, Meeting Minutes

Alan Sanderson moved and Bruce Ward seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve minutes of the August 1, 2001 ITS Committee meeting.

3. Call to Audience

Chairman Book made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the ITS Committee. There was no comment from the audience.

4. Program Managers Report

Review of the TIP Schedule: The following schedule was proposed for upcoming activities related to submission and review of new ITS projects for

Sept 7	– MAG emails out Rating System Data Form
Sept 12	– Deadline for submitting new projects
Sept 14	– Return ITS Data Form to MAG
Sept 14-20	– ITS Data Form applied to all projects
Sept 20	– ITS and CMS scores available for all projects
Oct 2	– TRC approves TIP project list for review by Technical Committees
Oct 3	– October ITS Committee meeting – project presentations
Oct 4	– Air Quality Committee recommends emission scores
Oct 11	– Tentative Date – ITS Committee - project presentations
Oct 19	– ITS projects with emissions, CMS and ITS Ratings emails
Oct 26	– Deadline for generating ITS project list for TRC mailing

ITS On-Call RFQ: Committee members were informed that FHWA has ruled out the possibility of member agencies utilizing a the list qualified consultants from the MAG ITS On-Call contract to launch their own ITS projects. For the four MAG projects it is likely that MAG will issue an on-call RFQ. Chuck Hydeman stated that Goodyear has developed an on-call contract. Alan Hansen explained that Goodyear had developed the contract with ADOT as their overseeing agent. Chuck Hydeman stated that City of Goodyear plans to hire consultants directly off the list for projects using the approved process.

MAG Transportation Studies:

The following projects/studies are underway at MAG:

- Regional Transportation Plan – Phase 1 underway, Contractor: URS Greiner
- Southeast Area Transportation Study (Maricopa & Northern Pinal County) - Contractor: Parsons Brinckerhoff – project starts 10/01
- Southwest Area Transportation Study – Contractor: Wilbur Smith - project starts 10/01
- Northwest Area Transportation Study – Contractor: Parsons Brinckerhoff – project starts 10/01
- East-West Mobility Study – Contractor: Entranco at Task 1
- Bottleneck & Freeway Capacity Study – Contractor: Olsson Associates at Task 1
- Household Survey – Contractor: NUSTATS – completion Feb 2002
- Travel Speed Study – RFP 1st wk of Sept – completion by Dec 2002 – travel speeds on arterials during peak and off-peak
- Traffic Volume Counts – RFP upcoming shortly
- HOV/HOT lane Study – Final Review
- Station Demand Forecasting (Travel model improvements) – Contractor: Parsons Brinckerhoff underway
- High Capacity Transit Study – RFP/Proposal Stage
- Major Transit MIS (joint project w/Scottsdale, Tempe, and Chandler) – underway

5. ITS Project Rating System

Recommendations of the ITS Project Rating System Subcommittee were presented to the committee. Proposed revisions to the system included incorporation of recommendations from the recently completed ITS Strategic Plan. Each project will receive a score based on how well the project matched ITS User Needs listed in the Plan. Brian Latte described the subcommittee discussion on the need to launch ITS projects that addressed identified needs. The use of scores attributed to User Needs identified in the Plan was identified as an effective way to implement the Plan. Alan Sanderson mentioned that the subcommittee had discussed the issue of investment in infrastructure or corridors/projects and the need to balance the two. Another was the issue of updating the list of regional smart corridors. Jim Book agreed with that point, making an observation of one of the regional smart corridors that was no longer serving that function due to extension of State Route 51 further north.

Alan Sanderson moved to approve the revised Rating System as presented to the committee, seconded by Bruce Ward. A discussion took place on what traffic volume data were to be used, and it was agreed that the most current traffic data available to a jurisdiction would be used. Alan Sanderson amended his motion to include that the most current ADT numbers be used in the rating system. The motion as modified was approved by unanimous voice vote. Members of the Rating System Subcommittee, consisting of Alan Sanderson, Brian Latte, Bruce Ward & Alan Hansen and the MAG ITS Program Manager, Sarath Joshua, were recognized for their contribution to this effort.

6. Unfunded Projects from Last Year

The committee reviewed the list of projects that were submitted for TIP programming last year but were not programmed. The committee recommended 9 projects last year and all of them were funded. The projects that were not recommended consisted of ADOT FMS projects and the County's REACT project. Jim Book asked how much CMAQ funds were available this year. Jim Book mentioned that there is a perception that investment in ITS projects are not paying off as expected. He went on to quote Christine Johnson's depiction of how ITS is addressed as projects with insufficient attention to operations. Brian Latte agreed with that observation looking at how VMS are used in our region. Jim Book asked why we cannot tie information on a VMS with level of service information that we see on an internet site. Bob Steele identified the problem as a case of inadequate staff resources.

Jim Book stated that if the VMS at Cave Creek gave the LOS information (available in the FMS) on Squaw Peak south of Northern, it would be useful information.

Mike Nevarez stated that he and Tim Wolfe are on the National Committee on 511. The 511 system is ready to deliver realtime multimodal information. Jim Book referred to John Carlson's visit and how he was surprised that it was easier to get police and no traffic personnel. Grants to cities for limited police positions are easily approved by city council and later on added to permanent positions. Possible CMAQ use for ITS operations was discussed as eligible use of CMAQ.

7. Status Reports by Committee Members of ITS Activities

Jim Book described how a fiber backbone project in Glendale between transportation and public safety groups benefited both groups.

8. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced as 9:00 AM on Wednesday October 3, 2001.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Book at 10:45 AM